SELF-DEFINING AND SELF-ROUTING ENTERPRISE MESSAGES

ABSTRACT

A method and system for operating a distributed computing system of the type having a multitude of distributed applications, each of the applications including a procedural part for executing instructions, and a declarative part including data. The method comprises the steps of formatting messages to include processing instructions; and transmitting the messages to the distributed applications, the transmitted messages causing the applications to implement the processing instructions included in the messages. An important advantage of self-defining and self-routing messages is that they may be used to reduce the procedural part of the application program and to make it generic. Customization and tailoring of the application takes place in the design of the declarative part. The procedural part interprets the messages in a generic fashion and executes instructions, such as logic or services, that are declared in the messages.